Gnostic Runology – The "Jer/Ger, Jera" Rune (Historically)

http://www.GnosticStudies.org/Runes

The "Jer, Jar, Jahr" or J-Rune According to Friedrich Fischbach (1900)

After the *Is*-Rune, and in place of the 10th or *Ar*-Rune, Fischbach gives the 'J-Rune = *Jêr* = Year [*Jahr*]' along with this description:





We find the greatest Diversity in the *Jêr* or *Jâr* Rune. The anglo-saxon Character ᛜ probably indicates the elapsed Solar-Year [*Sonnenjahr*], namely the crossed-out Sun. Whereas the ᚷ can likewise signify the four Seasons, but Usually it is the three Main-Seasons which are crossed out or united.

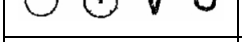
The "Ing" and "Thorn" Runes According to Guido von List (1910 & 1907)

In Lists' book *The Pictographic-Script of the Aryo-Germans: Aryo-Germanic Hieroglyphics*, first published in 1910, he says:

> "the following Rune, Fig. 72 ᛜ, applies to the Syllable '*ing*' … because it is condensed [*zusammengesackt*] from the Horn and from the Crescent/Sickle [*dem Horn und der Sichel*]"

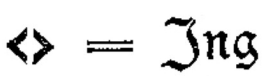


In order to understand what the 'Horn' and 'Crescent/Sickle' are, we need to look at some Glyphs he defines as follows:

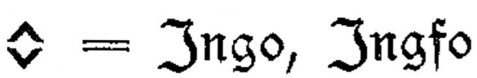
Glyph	Glyph Name	Name Meaning	Glyph Meaning	Corresponding Moon Phase
	"*Horen*"	Horn	Emergence/Genesis [*Entstehung*]	Waxing Moon
	"*Fem*"	Five	Remind/Encourage [*mahnen*]; Rule/Prevail [*Walten*]	Full-Moon
	"*Sihila*", "*Sihhala*"	Crescent/Sickle [*Sichel*]	Healing [*Helende*], Hiding, Dying [*Sterbende*]; or 'Passing-On to New-Arising'	Waning Moon
	"*Wbe*", "*Ybe*", "*Yb*"	Spirit	the Yew-Bow [*Eibenbogen*]; the spiritual Bow/Arc: 'Return to Rebirth'; or 'Non-Being, *Ur*-State'	New-Moon

So when List says that the *Ing*-Rune is "condensed from the Horn and from the Crescent/Sickle", this refers to the duality of the Waxing and Waning Moon Phases, as well as to opposites of Beginning (Emergence/Genesis) and Conclusion/Ending (Healing, Hiding, Dying) in a Cycle.

List goes on to differentiate the variants of this Rune:



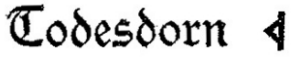
***Ing*-Rune**



***Ingo*- or *Ingso*-Rune**

If we add the *Is*-Rune to the above *Ing*-Rune, then we get the other shape for this Rune ᛜ , which would symbolically mean: the Beginning and Conclusion/Ending (*Ing*-Rune) of the "vigorously-willed Spirit" (*Is*-Rune), and of the Willpower necessary to overcome the "Surge of the Waves" in the Spiritual- and Physical-Worlds. (See List's explanation of the *Is*-Rune.)

While discussing the *Dorn*- or Thorn-Rune, in his *Mystery/Secret of the Runes* (1907), List mentions that this Rune has a dual aspect based on how its point or 'thorn' is directed:

> "This Rune is the 'Thorn-of-Death [*Todesdorn*]' which is what Wuotan used to put the disobedient *Valkyrie*, *Brunhilda* (a female warrior), into a Death-Sleep (compare Sleeping Beauty).
>
> 
>
>
> But in contrast to this, it is also the 'Thorn-of-Life [*Lebensdorn*]' (the Phallus), with which Death is conquered through "Rebirth [*Wiedergeburt*]".
>
> 
>

One aspect is related to Life, and the other to Death... If we overlap these runes on top of each other, then we have one of the shapes of the *Jer/Jera* Rune, which we can say becomes the 'Thorns-of-Death-and-Life'.



Gnostically, this reminds us of the dual aspect of our Interior Work: to Die in ourselves and to be Born again. In this sense, it reminds of the danger of becoming a *Hanasmuss* (a being who has the Solar Bodies, but has not eliminated the Ego), a 'Cosmic Failure', an abortion of the Divine Mother.

The "Jer/Gera" Rune According to E.T. Kurtzahn (1924)

In his explanation of the Thorn-Rune, Kurtzahn mentions Death and Life as Opposite-Poles.

The Thorn-of-Life [*Lebensdorn*], he says, "resembles an *Ithyphallus* or Erect Phallus which indicates the 'Will to Life [*Willens zum Leben*]' through Procreation-Readiness."

However, he goes on to say that "the implied condition of Death (necessary to define Life) together with Rebirth in almost infinite Change or Exchange [*Wechsel*]" is something that "nothing and no one is able to resist..."

The "Jer/Gera" Rune According to R.J. Gorsleben (1930)

In discussing the *Thorn/Dorn* Rune, Gorsleben says:

> "The male magical thorn, the thorn of awakening, overcomes the thorn-hedge of the Wahl-castle (Selection-Castle), the rampart-castle, the place of selecting the bride, the hedge of thunder, the *Thun-Ar*-hedge: *Tun* = fence, *Ar* = Sun, therefore the fence of the Sun or of the fire.
>
> **The double Rune ᚦ ᛩ (Thorn from both sides) approaches the shape of the Rune of Marriage [ᛗ *Ehe*-Rune].**
>
> Marriage only creates the human being in its entirety in man and woman, who create the third one, which is more than both... This is the meaning of Sleeping Beauty, who sleeps the hibernation of infertility, until the prince, the knight, the fearless one, arrives, penetrates

the hedge of thorny roses and awakens the virgin with a kiss. She is sleeping the sleep between death and reincarnation and her destiny is to give birth to the son of the hero…"

-Paraphrase from *The Peak-Time of Humanity [Die Hoch-Zeit der Menschheit]* (1930) by Rudolf John Gorsleben

For the Gnostic, the "Sleep" of Sleeping Beauty is the sleeping Consciousness, which must be awakened through the Work on ourselves…

The Jer/Gera or Belgthor Rune According to Scholars

The ᛃ *Jer/Gera* or *Belgthor* Rune is often used in Runic Calendars to refer to the number 19 (or the 19th year). Runic Calendars were perpetual calendars based on a 19 year-long period correlating the Sun and the Moon, which is called a Metonic cycle (a period after which the lunar phases recur at the same time of the year). Rune Calendars were etched on pieces of wood and often referred to as Rune Staffs.

The word "Belg", in Prot-Indo-European, means "to bulge, to swell". So it makes sense that the ᛃ *Jer/Gera* or *Belgthor* Rune can be seen as 2 ᚦ *Thoros, Thorn* or *Dorn* Runes ᚦᛞ put together (two or more overlapping runes is sometimes called a 'bind rune').

Other variations of this rune (such as the ᛄ *Jera* or *Jeran*) are said to have the meaning of "year" or "harvest", as well as "season", "plenty", and "prosperity".

The Symbolic Perspective for the Jer/Gera or Belgthor Rune

If we convert the ᛃ *Jer/Gera* or *Belgthor* Rune into a posture, then we see a person with both hands on the hips. Again, something like a double ᚦ *Thoros, Thorn* or *Dorn* Rune ᚦᛞ.

According to the Center for Non-Verbal Studies, this posture is called "akimbo" or 'hands-on-hips':

> Hands-on-hips shows that the body is prepared to "take steps"
> a. to perform,
> b. to take part in, or
> c. to take charge of
> an event, activity, or work assignment.
>
> As a nonverbal cue, the posture shows that the body is poised to "step forward" (either to carry out a superior's order, or to discipline or threaten a subordinate, or to defend against those who "overstep their bounds").

And in US Politics, it says:

> Hands-on-hips has been analyzed as a "classic sign of confidence" … [such as] in the painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware River…

However, there is another side to this posture. According to Law Enforcement sources (in this case, an FBI Special Agent):

...it is a territorial-claiming gesture usually present when something is wrong. Many a child has come home to a mother waiting at the door with her arms akimbo. Nothing further need be said: the kid is in trouble.

I don't recommend that officers responding to domestic situations stand in doorways with arms akimbo. They are blocking the king's castle, they are being territorial, and it is a hostile statement when defusion is needed instead.

On the other hand, I encourage female officers to use arms akimbo more often to establish greater territory, and thus greater authority.

A general summary of this posture, then, would be that it indicates confidence and is related to the "action of controlling" a situation.



Prior to Action: If the action is to follow, then this can be accomplished by taking the control (or authority) away from someone else or by asserting one's own authority (if there does not seem to be one already established).

After Action: If the action has just occurred, then it may indicate a perceived triumph.

Either way, it often seems to be the posture indicating some kind controlling or dominating action (either that will follow or has been accomplished). Which is maybe why we see modern fictional "Superheros" take this posture before or after they have acted.



Additionally, this posture seems to indicate: Overseeing, Overlooking or Reflecting on an action, situation, job or phase of a project (which can also be seen as a series of tasks and, therefore, as a cycle or part of a cycle).

For the ancients, who were in touch with Nature, life generally revolved around the appropriate seasonal activities such that they were prepared for the next phase or season. Thus, if this Rune is related to the Year, then we can see its association with Reflecting on the current seasonal activities or even the whole year...